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tion, affording entertainment to several admiring friends. Hon. John Whitcomb, of Clinton, first called our attention to the cute little fellow.—*C., in Indiana Farmer.*

FROGS EATING SNAKES.—For several months I have kept in the house a sort of “zoological garden” in which there have been a few specimens of frogs, salamanders, and snakes. A few weeks ago I placed therein two full-grown leopard frogs and a hog-nosed viper about nine or ten inches in length. There were already in the box two garter-snakes two feet long and three salamanders—nothing else at that time. For a time everything went well, but about two weeks later the little viper was missing. A diligent search failed to find it, and careful examination of the cage showed no place of escape. The disappearance seemed quite mysterious, and the conclusion reached was that it had fallen a victim to cannibalism on the part of one of the other reptiles, although neither showed any signs of having feasted so extensively. Ten or fifteen days later a friend and I went to take a look at the pets. We found in the excrement of one of the frogs what on examination proved to be the skin, etc., of a snake, apparently the lost viper. When first found not more than half the length had passed, and the process was evidently causing the frog considerable effort. It was using its hind feet to assist in freeing itself.

Was the inference that the frog had swallowed the snake justifiable? I had never heard of such an occurrence; nor have I since been able to find any one who has. I was greatly surprised, for it seemed to me almost impossible. The swallowing of frogs by snakes I have several times seen, but I have never known the operation to be reversed, except in this instance.—*H. L. Roberts, Lewistown, Ill.*

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## ARCHÆOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY held its fifth annual meeting in the National Museum at Washington, D. C., beginning December 26, and continuing three days.

Among the many papers read, about the only one bearing upon Anthropology was that of Major Powell, introducing a “Language Map of North America.” This map was displayed before the audience and the different Indian languages depicted thereon by different colors. An abstract of the Major’s remarks and description is as follows:

<sup>1</sup> This Department is edited by Thomas Wilson, Esq., Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

"There is but one human species ; but one human race. All differences are but variations of the one and original species. There were two great peoples of this one human species living on the two different hemispheres, unknown to each other. Columbus, voyaging from the one, discovered the other, and introduced them together. Further acquaintance developed the fact that even before his time there was a greater number of living languages in America than in Europe. If there was not more civilization, there was certainly more philosophy. We have failed to comprehend the extent to which this is true.

"Fifteen years ago I was called upon in my official capacity to classify the North American Indians. After various attempts and much consideration, I decided that the only practical or satisfactory classification was that to be made by language. Other persons had treated the subject in the light of zoology, and had attempted to classify man as an animal. Divers measurements of the crania were resorted to, anthropometry was put in active operation, tests were made of the color of the skin, hair, eyes, etc., but all such have failed as means of classification. We discovered as we progressed that classification by language was fundamental and wrought a classification in civilization, sociology, religion, mythology, art, etc.

"This map exhibits our conclusions so far as our work has been completed. It is intended to represent the condition and location of Indian tribes as manifested by their languages at the advent of the white man, though succeeding epochs have sometimes necessarily been shown.

"The Eskimos occupy the northern coast line like a fringe from Labrador to Alaska. They speak practically the same language. The Athabascan, occupying almost the entire territory of British North America, speak many languages, each distinct from the other, and yet belonging to the same stock and showing that they were the same people. We find this language scattered in spots through California and Old and New Mexico.

"The next group of languages, forty or fifty in number, scattered over the eastern and northeastern United States and Canada, was the Algonkin, and yet we find the Arapahoes down near the Gulf of Mexico to belong to the same stock. Likewise the Iroquois, variously called the Five or Six or Seven Nations, have a modern representative in the language of the Cherokees.

"The Siouan group had its habitat on the prairies between the Mississippi and Missouri. The Shoshonian group comprises twenty-five different languages. The Pueblo Indians employed four or five different stocks, but they all belong to the Shoshonian language.

"We have gathered material showing seventy-three different stocks of languages and nigh eight hundred dialects among the Indians of North America, and we have been aided in our work by the labors of missionaries, scholars, and of volunteers.

"Our work has made us more conservative. We now depend more

on evidence and less on theory. Our arrangement is based on the vocabulary—the roots of words. We have not depended upon the structure of their language. Structure means only different grades or degrees in development. A single language in its different dialects may exhibit at one and the same time both the highest and the lowest grade of structure or development. This is true of the Shoshonian. The language of some of the Indian tribes had a higher order of structure and a better grammar than had the English. The grammar of a language is born in barbarism.

“An attempt has been made in the present day, by a German, to construct a new language, and its inventor or maker has declared his purpose to take the good things of all languages and put them together for his new language. Suppose a zoologist should attempt to construct a new animal, or a new species, upon the same line, and, for instance, for the extremities of the body, he takes the hoofs of the horse, the wing of the bird, the fin of the fish, and the hand of man, and uses them all in the construction of his new animal because they all served a good purpose in the old. The result would be the same as in the new language, Volapük—the conglomerate monster of modern language.”

We have seen the Linguistic Map of North America prepared by Major Powell and his assistants. It is a great work, worthy all commendation. The science had need for it, and it could scarcely ever have been done by private enterprise. It was fit and proper that it should be done under Government patronage, and all credit is due to the men who have made it.

In giving it this commendation, we do not at all assent to Major Powell's criticisms of other means of classification, and his laudation of language as the only correct or valuable one.

His may be, or may not be, the best system for the classification of the modern North American Indian tribes, but certainly is not for the real prehistoric races, whether of the Western or Eastern Hemispheres. However much we may theorize concerning their means of communicating ideas to each other, we are absolutely without knowledge as to the language they employed. But we make no dispute with Major Powell. This work done by him has enough of good in it to receive our approval, without wasting our strength in disputing over his criticism of other methods. The truth is, that all systems, all means, all methods, of determining the differences between the various Indian tribes, and, perhaps, between all races of men, are necessary and important in establishing the true classification. We may not pin our faith to one alone, but may use all, getting from each whatever of good it may furnish. The other method of classification will continue to be used, and Time, the great leveller, will set all things right. We can afford to wait.

APPROPRIATIONS BY CONGRESS FOR THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.—“England has become thoroughly aroused to the necessity

of encouraging science and art. Availing herself of the fifty thousand volumes and the hundreds of cases of natural history left by Hans Sloane, a native of Ireland, she founded the British Museum. Later in the century she spent half a million dollars on the National Gallery, and has annually bestowed upon it a liberal allowance. The South Kensington Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, and the India Museum are all of comparatively recent origin, and have cost the Treasury millions for their foundation and support. Museums of art have been opened in the provincial towns, supported in part by corporate, in part by private, and in part, indirectly, by Parliamentary aid. The effect of Kensington and other training-schools upon the industry of England has been such that last year a leading French authority cried out that if France did not bestir herself, England would take from her the markets of the world, which the superior technic and taste of the French designers have monopolized for a century, or since the establishment of art schools throughout France. Parliament expended last year upon the science and art of England nearly \$5,000,000, and upon science and art in Ireland nearly \$300,000."—*Margaret F. Sullivan, in December Century Magazine.*

If comparisons were not "odorous," one might be drawn between the policy and action of the United States Government and that of Great Britain as set forth in the foregoing extract.

The United States National Museum is the only institution supported by the United States Government which stands as a representative of the British institutions mentioned above, and on which its Government has spent millions.

The appropriations made by the United States Government for the National Museum are barely sufficient to keep it alive. They are provision for its daily running expenses, and barely adequate for that. What the museum, its contributors and correspondents, persons throughout the country interested in kindred scientific pursuits, and the public generally, have good right to complain of is that no provision is made in these appropriations for the purchase or securing of specimens, however great their value or importance, nor for the enlargement or increase of the collections. The Congress, it would seem, fails to comprehend the scope and purpose of the National Museum. It seems to consider it as a mere gathering of curiosities (maybe monstrosities) which may serve to amuse and interest for an afternoon a stray constituent who may have come in from the rural districts and seek attention at his Congressman's hands. The Congress at large seems not to know, or, if it does, ignores the fact that the National Museum is an extensive, and ought to be fully equipped, organization for the education of the people and for conducting investigations in science not possible to be done by private individuals.

In other countries it would be liberally supported and generously sustained. With a geographic area larger than combined Europe the United States treats its science, especially its science of archæology,

with less interest, or care or attention, if we measure these things by the appropriations made, than do the third-rate powers, such as Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, etc. Yet the area of the United States is as rich and as new, and will pay as largely for cultivation, as any like area in Europe. The States of Ohio, or Wisconsin, or West Virginia, or Mississippi, not to mention New York or New England, have either of them within their borders as much unstudied, unsearched, and unclassified archæologic riches as has any one of the great countries of Europe: England, France, Germany, Spain, or Italy. Yet these countries, each of them, do more for their archæology than equals the combined efforts of the United States and all the State governments.

I confess to a feeling of depression when, on visiting the Prehistoric Museum at Salisbury, England, I found there stored and displayed, in a beautiful building, erected in the midst of a lovely park, for its sole occupancy, the prehistoric collection of Squier and Davis, gathered by them from the mounds of the United States in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. It went begging through the United States, knocked at the door of Congress, and besought a purchaser at the ludicrous price of \$1000, but without finding a response. And in disgust with their countrymen, and in despair of ever being able to interest their Government or fellow-citizens, they sold their collection to England and retired from the field of archæologic investigations.

The National Museum courts the fullest investigations into its mode of conducting business. It is willing to be held to the strictest accountability for its expenditures. These should be made imperative. But it should receive at the hands of Congress an intelligent co-operation and a generous response to its efforts for the elevation and education of our people.

The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Director of the National Museum has labored with all zeal to establish a zoological park and garden in the environs of Washington for the preservation and display of our native wild animals, now rapidly on the road to extinction. Looking in that direction, a few of these animals have been received as gifts under the promise that they would be protected and cared for. And they have been established in temporary wooden buildings, and a park, with a wire fence around it, as big as an onion patch, in the Smithsonian grounds, in expectation that they might form the nucleus of a future zoological park and garden. The House Committee on Appropriations seem to calculate or figure how much refuse meat, how many bushels of corn and bales of hay, how little of provision would support these animals, keeping them from starvation during the coming year, and so has reduced the appropriation by one-half from the estimates. One might suppose that the Secretary, meeting with such responses, would grow weary of his efforts in well-doing and retire from the further contest disappointed, if not in despair.

However, the people of the United States are not niggardly in

the matter of money needed for the benefit of science, if the object be properly explained and fairly understood. It rests upon the Secretary and Board of Regents to do this, and the people will justify them in asking for any reasonable amount so long as they shall be satisfied, as they may be under the present administration, that it is honestly expended and faithfully accounted for. Legislators seeking a reputation for economy will not be sustained by the people in refusing to vote the appropriations sufficient to secure, in these matters, a degree of excellence which will cause the United States to compare favorably with other countries.

**FORGERIES OF PALÆOLITHIC IMPLEMENTS IN EUROPE.**—Mr. John Evans, of Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead, England, the distinguished numismatist and prehistoric archæologist, says in a private letter lately received : “ We have lately had very extensive forgeries of palæolithic implements in the neighborhood of London. Many of them are of great size and remarkably well made. Several collectors have been taken in, and I should not be surprised if some of our dealers exported a few to America. I recommend you to be on your guard.”

Monsieur Boucher de Perthes, of Abbeville, the discoverer of the palæolithic age and implements in the valley of the river Somme, was often deceived by the workmen on whom he had to depend in his search for these implements. It was in the beginning of all knowledge of this subject, and no one could claim to be an expert or have much experience in their detection. Monsieur Boucher de Perthes stored his collection, if he did not make it a donation, to the Archæologic Museum of the town of Abbeville, and died without knowledge of the frauds of which he had been the victim. His son-in-law, M. D'Ault Dumesnil, the geologist, equally learned and practised as a prehistoric archæologist, became director of that museum. In the classification made by him of the palæolithic implements he detected the forgeries and withdrew them from exhibition. The United States National Museum has to thank him for a series which are there exhibited as specimens of these forgeries. So habile did M. Dumensil become in the detection of these forgeries that he was able to tell from an inspection of them, not only when they were forgeries, but from their peculiarities he could determine the identity of the forger. The “ personal equation ” was so manifested in this work as to enable him to do this.

**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PREHISTORIC ANTHROPOLOGY AT PARIS, 1889.**—The International Congress of Prehistoric Anthropology will profit by the French Exposition of 1889, and hold a meeting at Paris, in August of this year. These Congresses were organized in 1866–67, and have held their meetings in various capitals of Europe with greater or less regularity until the last one at Lisbon, in 1880. A session was organized for Athens, in 1883, but failed, owing to the rumors of approaching war. We are glad to hear of this revival at Paris for 1889.

A few individuals (I do not know whether they were enough to make it the plural number), living less than a hundred miles from the city of New York, having a greater desire for notoriety than to benefit the human race, attempted last spring and summer to organize a private international congress of prehistoric anthropology. The list of complimentary officers, Vice-Presidents, etc., was formidable, and comprised most, if not all, distinguished foreigners, and the farther away the more there were of them. The list appeared to have been copied from the records of some young and ambitious anthropological society, and to have contained all its honorary associates and corresponding members. The scheme was doomed from the beginning, as an international affair, for, while no anthropologists at home were consulted, or at least gave their adhesion, the time was too short to perfect arrangements with foreign countries and have their societies represented. But one foreigner of any note attended, and he—well, he concealed his disappointment with that suavity which belongs to his nation. No great harm was done to the science of prehistoric anthropology by the failure of this pretended International Congress, for no one was greatly deceived; but its instigators should take warning from this attempt and not repeat the fiasco. Think of getting up such a congress without the co-operation of any of the members of the anthropological section of the Association for the Advancement of Science, and without a representative from any of the anthropological societies of the United States except the local one interested.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—Dr. A. B. Meyer, of Dresden, writes to *Nature* (XXXIX., p. 30) to state that there are no autochthonic Papuans or Negritos in Celebes, and to express doubts of their occurring in other islands to which they are attributed by Quatrefages and Flower.

The first discovery of remains of cave-dwellers in Scandinavia has recently been made in a cave on a small island near Gottland. The remains consisted of the old fireplaces, and the bones of various animals, pottery, flint chips, etc. Most of the bones had been broken to extract the marrow. In the upper strata the bones of pigs, horses, etc., predominated, but in the lower those of seals increase.

During the past summer the museum at Copenhagen has explored a large kitchen-midden in Jutland, situated in a forest a couple of miles from the sea. Besides the usual assortment of bones and shells, many flint implements and fragments of pottery were found, as well as some bone and horn tools, a few of the latter showing traces of ornamentation.